

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSC PFOR BL
SUBJ: GUARANTEEING BOLIVIAN NEUTRALITY

REF: STATE 236927

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL, I BRIEFED PRESIDENT BANZER TUESDAY, NOV. 12 ON U.S. REACTION TO HIS REQUEST FOR GUARANTEE OF BOLIVIAN NEUTRALITY AND OTHER ITEMS RELATED THERETO. PRESIDENT BANZER SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED THAT U.S. HAD REPLIED TO HIS APPROACH AND INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR INABILITY TO PROVIDE UNILATERAL GUARANTEE OF BOLIVIAN NEUTRALITY. HE SAID HE CONSIDERS CONFLICT BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE NOT AS SHORT-TERM BUT AS LONGER RANGE PROBLEM. HE AGREES THAT TO RAISE CHILE-PERU SITUATION IN OAS NOW WOULD BE INADVISABLE. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR COMMITMENT ON PART OF US THAT IT WILL CONSULT WITH HIM AS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT IN DEVELOPING SITUATION BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU, AS NOTED IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL. HE DID NOT REACT TO PRESENTATION ON ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT.

2. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN FORTHCOMING VISIT OF LUIGI EINAUDI OF S/P AND ASKED ME TO PERSONALLY COORDINATE HIS PROGRAM WITH MINISTER OF COORDINATION, GENERAL LECHIN.

3. PRESIDENT TOLD ME THAT SITUATION IN COUNTRY CALM AFTER ABORTIVE COUP IN SANTA CRUZ AND THE TAKING OF FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS ABOUT A
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NEW ORDER WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF BOLIVIA. HE SAID

THERE MAY BE SOME DIFFICULTIES IN THE MINING AREA AND NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE MANACO SHOE FACTORY IN COCHABAMBA THE NIGHT OF NOV 11. FACTORY, HE SAID, HAD BEEN CONSTANT SOURCE OF COMMUNIST AGITATION AND DISTURBANCES OF PUBLIC ORDER.

4. PRESIDENT SAID HE HOPED DEPT OF STATE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE AND HIS REGIME WERE FORCED AGAINST THEIR OWN DESIRES TO IMPOSE NEW ORDER OF GOVERNMENT BECAUSE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE NOT PROPITIOUS FOR ELECTIONS WHICH HE BASICALLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED. HE SAID HE HOPED UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY PROFOUND SO AS TO ENCOURAGE FAVORABLE RESPONSES TO INCREASED BOLIVIAN NEEDS FOR VARIOUS KINDS OF ECONOMIC AND INTERNAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ANTICIPATED LARGE DEFICIT IN 1975.
STEDMAN

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NNN

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